

Church of God  
**Evangel**



December 19, 1960







# Editorial

## THEY WAITED. BUT...

ONE OF THE GREATEST ironies of human history is the case of Israel and their Messiah. For centuries the people looked for Him, a Redeemer who would ascend the throne of David and take away all their troubles. Israel prayed and wept and yearned for their Messiah, yet when He came the people were not ready for Him.

They waited, but the years took away their eager expectancy.

They waited, but His coming caught them unprepared for Him.

They waited, but when He came they were more distressed than delighted at His coming.

In Jewish legend there are stories in which even the children went to sleep in the camps of Israel searching the skies in the hope that they would see the Messiah come. The prophets spoke of Him and the people dreamed of Him. He would be mighty and good and wise, and all the world would know that Israel had her king. Sholem Asch and other Jewish writers have told us how the dream for their Messiah took hold of the people, possessed them until it became their obsession.

Then the period of eager expectancy passed into a period of wonder, of doubt, of unconcern.

Eventually an Idumean, not even of the Jewish race, usurped the throne of David and sat upon the royal throne in Jerusalem. History knows him as Herod the Great. Through enticing programs and material achievements, Herod was able to win the hearts of most of Israel; they particularly loved him when he rebuilt their Temple for them. The nation forgot much of their suffering, and dreams of Messiah died.

When finally He came, Israel did not rush to see their Redeemer. There was no jubilation, no glad-some songs, no hosannas bursting from the lips of the people. Some came, such as the shepherds of Judea and the Wise Men of the East. Some believed and rejoiced, such as Simeon and Anna, aged and waiting in Jerusalem. The masses, however, had forgotten. They no longer looked or really cared for the Messiah.

For long years they had waited, they had hoped, they had prayed, they had pined for Him; but when He came the land had fallen into sleep, the stupor of indifference and satisfaction.

One glorious thing about all the prophecies of the coming of Christ is that they looked more to His second advent than to His first. One hundred and

ninety-eight times the Old Testament prophets spoke directly about His coming; three hundred and thirty-three times they made allusion to it. That was enough to make Israel eager and expectant. Consider, however, that there are eight times more prophecies about His second coming than there were about His first. He is yet to come in all the glory that the prophets of Israel foresaw.

His Word is true: He will come again.

Now we, like Israel, have waited and longed and yearned for His coming. But what have the years done and what are they doing to us and our expectation of His return? Have we allowed the passing of time to dull our anticipation of His return? Have we become heavy-eyed and fat, indifferent toward His coming again?

Impoverished and despised, Israel longed for His coming. Settled and content, they tended to forget. Prosperity and success can become a gigantic curse to us if we allow them to rob us of our eagerness for His return.

How does the thought of His coming affect you? Does it still fill you with eagerness or does it now smite you with dread? Does it give you fear or does it give you comfort? If the decision were left to you, would you hasten His return or would you have Him tarry still longer?

It is easy for men to become old and fat in heart, filled with such good things that they no longer wish Him to return. It is one thing to say vain words in a testimony meeting that we expect Him to return, and quite another thing really to want Him, expect Him, yearn for Him. People would think us backslidden if we did not at least say we look for His return, but our hearts must feel it and our lives must show it.

It is possible that this generation will have waited through the years and now will be complacent when He comes. The five foolish virgins waited for the Bridegroom and expected Him long into the night; yet when He came their readiness had dissipated through neglect and their joy was turned to fear and sorrow.

Though we have waited, we must even now make sure that we are ready to meet Him when He comes.

*Charles W. Cunn*

## CHRISTIAN PARADOX

Author Unknown

*It is in loving—not in being loved—  
The heart is blest;  
It is in giving—not in seeking gifts—  
We find our quest.*

*If thou art hungry, lacking heavenly food—  
Give hope and cheer.  
If thou art sad and wouldst be comforted—  
Stay sorrow's tear.*

*Whatever be thy longing and thy need—  
That do thou give;  
So shall thy soul be fed, and thou indeed,  
Shalt truly live.*



## MORE THAN A KING

Charles W. Conn

*Let angels their glad tidings sing;  
Let all wise men their tribute bring;  
Let all the earth rejoice and ring.  
Blest little Stranger,  
Snug in your manger,  
Thou art far more than Lord or King.*

*More than a king art Thou to me;  
More than a king's Thy praise shall be;  
More than a king's Thy majesty.  
Saviour and Sealer,  
Blest Friend and Healer,  
More than a king I'll worship Thee.*

## CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Author Unknown

*It is Christmas in the mansion,  
Yule-log fires and silken frocks;  
It is Christmas in the cottage,  
Mother's filling little socks.*

*It is Christmas on the highway,  
In the thronging, busy mart;  
But the dearest, truest Christmas  
Is the Christmas in the heart.*





By Philemon Roberts  
Youth Director of Florida

# Remembering and Receiving

"And they shall call his name Emmanuel," Matthew 1:23.

"Because there was no room for them in the inn," Luke 2:7.

**H**E WAS ANNOUNCED but soon forgotten.

Into a sin-cursed world whose heart throbbed with anticipation for a deliverer came a Babe of simple birth. Few people seemed to realize, however, that He was coming or had come. Had not the prophet said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)? Angelic choruses sang to announce His birth and the stars tumbled beams of light to furnish His halo. Despite these angelic announcements, prophetic pronouncements and stars of splendor, many forgot.

Great wars have afflicted mankind since the beginning of history. World War I left thousands dead, millions homeless and many more hopelessly crippled. Yet, in a span of a few years Germany forgot and Hitler was allowed to thrust the world into another conflagration even greater than the preceding one. How can men blunder so stupidly after knowing the effects of war? One answer comes readily—they forget!

*Indolent and indifferent* are the words which describe the housewife who forgets her expected visitors and neglects to do her chores. How rudely shocked were the workmen when the vineyard owner came and found indolence in place of initiative. The throes of desperation caused by negligence of thought and action accentuate the forgetfulness so prevalent in this world.

Christmas represents this coming of Christ. It is a day dedicated to the memory of His birth. Daily

radio programs tell us that Christmas is coming soon. Festive occasions remind us that the yuletide season is fast approaching. Then comes the day long awaited. Turkey and delicious food; presents for all; laughter and gaiety, the order of the day; but somehow we manage to forget that all this represents the birthday of Christ.

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They looked for room but found none.

Great expectancy gripped the hearts of Joseph and Mary. Highways were crowded as surging throngs pushed toward the big city. They were especially uneasy now, for they could find no place to stay. In modern-day language, "No Vacancy" signs were displayed everywhere. Desperation gripped Joseph—maybe it was the last place. Hurriedly he knocked—perhaps the tired innkeeper would not be very polite. But the same reply—no room here!

How shocked the innkeeper would have been had he known the true identity of those to whom he had refused lodging. This was soon to be the Babe who would rise from obscurity to world renown.

Christmas without Christ is the way in which many celebrate His birth. Men's minds are filled with all manner of things except Christ. Our time is devoted to foolishness and nonessentials, but seldom is there time for Christ. Many homes are places of lavish celebrations and many other things, but Christ is seldom or never recognized. No room for Christ.

*Away in a manger  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head.*

*The stars in the sky  
Looked down where He lay.  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay.*

This same Babe grew into manhood. Notice the many times He was ostracized. He worked a cure and the people cast Him from their midst. Others said, "He keeps company with publicans and sinners; we will have nothing to do with this Man." His own countrymen rejected Him, for "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

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We can remember and receive. Although others have forgotten, we should never forget. And although He was not received, we must receive Him. Those whom we love we never forget, and it is a joy to perpetuate the cherished things of life in our memories.

How many millions have remembered Christ? During the Crusades many fought because of His coming. Even now liberty is a result of His appearance. Great preparation is made year round to celebrate a day in commemoration of His birth. No, the world has not completely forgotten.

No heart need be vacant during Christmas. We can all have a Visitor to enrich our presence. Our whole life can receive a renewed joy. We cannot have Christ in person, but we can share His company in spirit.

*Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come,  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare  
Him room,  
And heav'n and nature  
sing.*



SOMEWHERE IN the eons of the past before the foundation of the earth, a Triune decision was made that the Son of God should be born a human being. This is a great mystery incomprehensible to man! Holy men of old, moved by the Spirit, wrote much about the Incarnation, yet the eternal why still remains.

Although we do not understand, we can rejoice as we read the Messianic prophecies. Let us rejoice in this Christmas season and reconfirm our faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour as we read from the Old Testament prophecies of Him and their New Testament interpretations.

#### Born of a Virgin

Isaiah 7:14      Matthew 1:23

#### Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2      Matthew 2:6

#### Sojourn in Egypt

Hosea 11:1      Matthew 2:15

#### Live in Galilee

Isaiah 9:1, 2      Matthew 4:15

#### Slaying of Children

Jeremiah 31:15      Matthew 2:18

#### Healing the Sick

Isaiah 53:4, 5      Matthew 8:17

#### Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver

Zechariah 11:12, 13      Matthew 26:15

#### Scourged and Spit Upon

Isaiah 50:6      Matthew 26:67

#### Not a Bone Broken

Psalms 34:20      John 19:36

#### Side Pierced

Zechariah 12:10      John 19:37

#### Die With Malefactors

Isaiah 53:12      Luke 22:37

#### Gave Gifts to Men

Psalms 68:18      Ephesians 4:8

Surely after reading these wonderful passages of Scripture, we can join with the heavenly host and cry, "Glory to God in the highest ...

for unto us is born a Saviour." Glory! Glory!

This same Jesus was born God-man.

Here is a Person so divine that He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, yet at birth so human that He needed to be "wrapped in swaddling clothes."

Here is a Lad so divine that He amazed the doctors at His speech, yet so human that He obeyed His sorrowing parents.

Here is a Guest so human that He enjoyed a wedding feast, yet so divine that He turned water into wine.

Here is a Traveler so weary of His journey that He sat to rest and asked for a drink of water from an adulteress, yet so divine that He could give her a drink of living water springing up into everlasting life.

Here is a Healer so human that

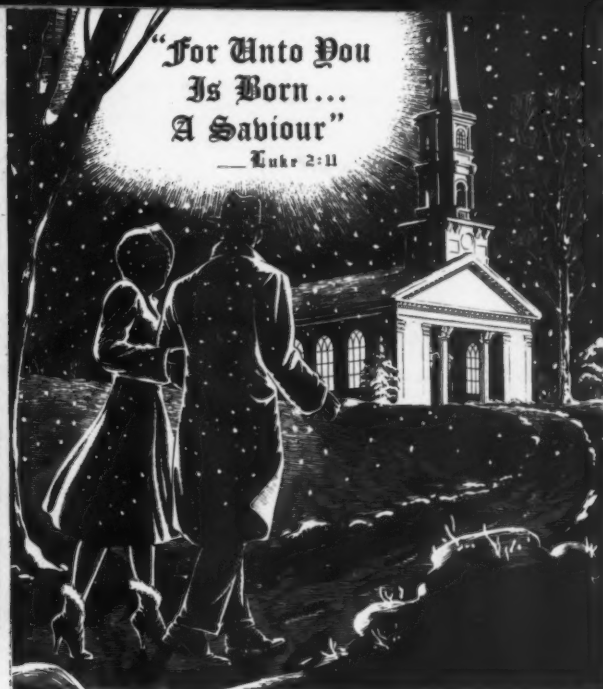
He wept at the death of a friend, yet so divine that He restored His friend Lazarus to life.

Here is a Man so human that He ate natural bread, yet so divine that He is the Bread of Life.

Here is a Sacrifice so human that He was tempted in all points like as we but without sin, yet so divine that He bore the sin of the whole world.

Here is my Saviour so human that He was made in the likeness of men, yet so divine that He, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

What a magnificent birth! Who else could better understand God and man at the same time? Who else could reconcile God and man? Birth is natural, birth is common, yet birth is miraculous, birth is mysterious. The birth of Jesus Christ was eternal life for all men who will receive Him. Will you receive Him?



By William H. Pratt

Pastor, Marietta, Georgia

# THE MAGNIFICENT BIRTH

*You can cut the high cost of  
giving if you resolve this year to—*

# *Keep Christmas... Not Spend It*

*By Ralph E. Day*

*Pastor, Battle Creek, Michigan*



**T**HE URGE TO exchange gifts at the drop of a hat—or a hint—may be a rosy dream realized by merchants, but it can become a nightmare to budget-minded families.

Dynamic advertising promoters have exploited this giving grace to the utmost. Manufacturers often begin planning next year's Christmas sales as soon as the holidays are over. Stores usually begin to attract Christmas shoppers in late October. Windows and showcases are decorated for the holidays. In most department stores children can tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas. They wait in long lines in order to climb upon the sparkling throne where Santa sits in his red and white suit. The whole area looks like a fairyland, with huge, colorful displays of the latest toys to give boys and girls more ideas.

Merchants sell more of almost every kind of product during the Christmas season than at any other time of the year. Stores in *Christian America* depend upon Christmas shoppers for one-fourth of the sales they make during the entire year.

Christmas Club Savings plans are provided to distribute the financial

burden of gift buying over the year.

For many years people observed Christmas as a religious festival only, but gradually they have adopted more and more customs unrelated to the Church. Its importance as a Holy Day is overshadowed by a pagan custom that is growing to be traditional—to give until it hurts. It is pagan because it is inspired by the selfishness of getting and the enforced task of giving.

As you stare in dismay at your ever-lengthening gift list and with financial agony set a certain amount that you will spend knowing full well that it will not be enough, then calculate the length of time it will take to pay the bills, can you thrill with the spiritual ecstasy that should be the very essence of the celebration of Christ's birth?

Christmas should be kept—not spent.

The principle of giving is grand, and there is an undeniable pleasure in being able to give. The excessive commercialism, however, has swallowed up the really fine part of the idea and has left only the hollow shell of duty giving, with cost as the main consideration.

The custom of giving or ex-

changing Christmas gifts began in memory of the gifts that the shepherds and the wise men brought to the Christ child. Then in some countries children were led to believe that their gifts came from St. Nicholas. In other countries the children believed that the wise men or the Christ child brought their gifts. In America the most joyous gift-giving symbol is Santa Claus. His cheerful face and twinkling eyes more often set the mood for Christmas celebration than do the divine countenance and compassionate look of the Christ child.

We must realize that the money spent is not nearly so important as the prompting urge that inspired the desire to give. Consider not the gift of the lover, but the love of the giver.

Sometimes it takes a child to make adults see the truth. A four-year-old caused me to review this truth with you at this time. Her mother had declined an opportunity to help older brother's scout troop because she "had so much to do between now and Christmas," and "It's getting so I dread it more and more every year." The four-year-old asked thoughtfully, "Do you dread having my birthday party, too, Mama?" Then she in-



quired, "If Christmas is Jesus' birthday, why don't we invite Him to His own birthday party?" Now this family manages to eliminate those things which are un-Christlike and to substitute in their place things which help to celebrate His birth properly. Think on these things:

Christmas cards that remind recipients of the birth of Jesus are further enhanced by a personal written message of friendship or appreciation.

A manger scene seems more fitting than a fat, plastic Santa with his prancing reindeer and the gay figures of the Seven Dwarfs which usually decorate a lawn.

In place of returning gift for gift, which will cause your gift list to grow out of reason, why not simply write each of these friends a note, explaining that your gift list has gotten out of hand and that you are "trimming it down to the bone." A note of friendship will be appreciated and will relieve the strain on your friends of feeling obligated to return a gift to you.

What about those who do present you with an unexpected gift? Don't do the usual—rush upstairs to wrap a last-minute present for the giver! Be honest and accept the gift graciously, making no attempt to return one. The giver must have wanted to give the gift, possibly to say, "Thank you," for some kindness you had shown. Don't spoil his pleasure by becoming flustered and apologizing because you have nothing to give in return.

Give Christmas Eve real significance by attending church as a family group. Then encourage the entire family to spend a quiet evening watching a Christmas story on television, reading the Bible story of Jesus' birth, or presenting gifts to a needy family. Be ready to answer affirmatively the questions, "Did our home reflect a truly Christian atmosphere during the Christmas holidays?" And, "Could we have welcomed Jesus into our home proudly as we celebrated the day of His birth?"

## Whose Birthday Is It?

By Byon A. Jones

Superintendent, Florida Conference  
Pentecostal Holiness Church

**W**HOSE BIRTHDAY is it? Although many of us celebrate the occasion as if it were ours, we must be reminded that December 25 commemorates the birthday of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus was born in a stable, we often forget that He belonged in a palace. The wise men from the East knew that this was true, so they came to the palace of Herod in Jerusalem. He did not belong in that palace, however, but in an eternal palace and in the spiritual palace of Joseph and Mary. Being a descendant of David, Jesus should have been born in the king's house. Herod, however, had usurped the throne; therefore, Joseph's home was a cave, and the maternity hospital was a stable in Bethlehem.

Have you ever wondered why the angel told the shepherds that they would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes? All babes in that day were wrapped in such a fashion. It was very likely because Mary had David's coat of arms monogrammed on these clothes which she had prepared with her own hands. She had prepared them for the Son of David.

Though He had been rich in heaven, Jesus was born poor upon the earth.

He became like us, even the poorest and most outcast, that we might become like Him, the richest and noblest—even like unto God.

Jesus was born of a virgin, for He could not have been born in any other way. God sent the angel, Gabriel, to tell Mary that His birth would be different from all others. We cannot possibly know what it cost Mary, so lovely, pure and young, to bring our Lord down to be one of us. The suspicion of her friends, the wonder of her own mind and the pain of her body are more than we could comprehend.

Since the king and the religious

leaders in Jerusalem were unfit to participate in the great Bethlehem drama, God did speak to some whose hearts were pure. He revealed to the shepherds nearby and to the wise men far away what He was doing. The shepherds went quickly to worship in the stable; then, at a later date, the wise men went to Joseph's house and worshipped the Babe.

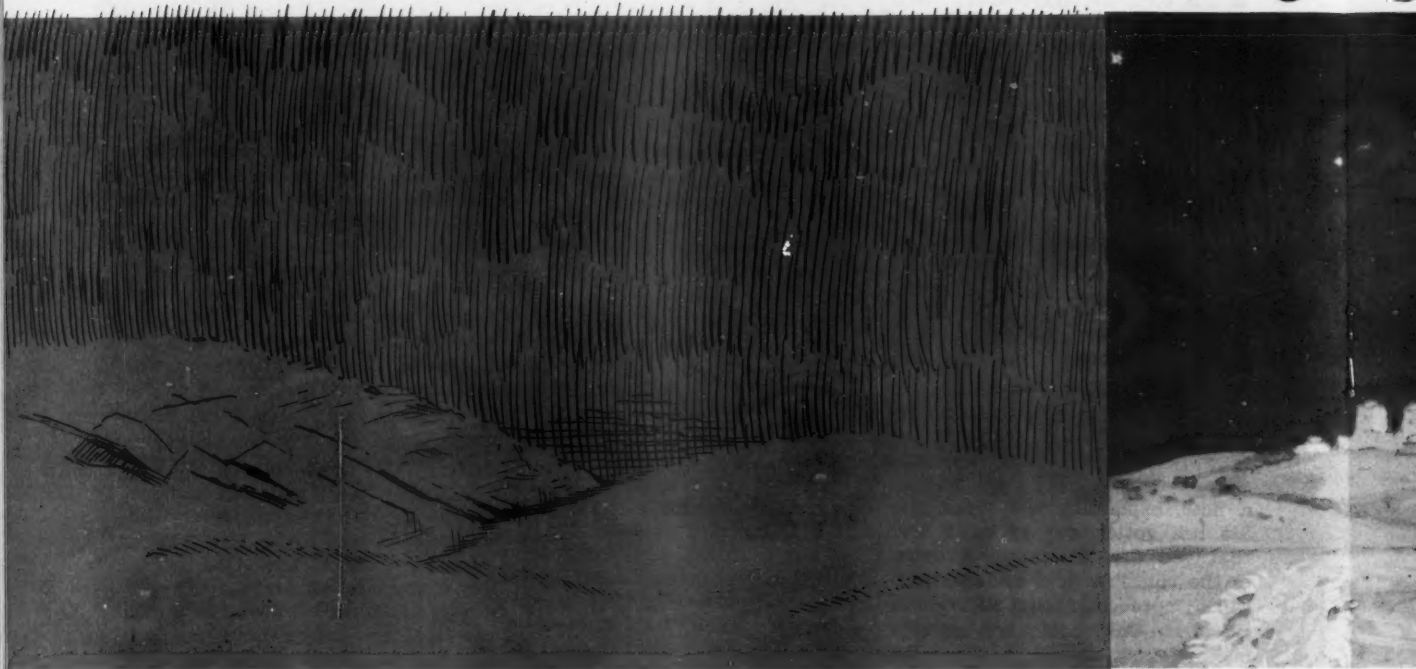
Now that it is the King's birthday again, let us do as those men of old; let us bring gifts to Him.

Friends once gave me a birthday party and planned everything to please me. Every gift was for me. As close as she is to me, my wife did not receive a single gift. You see, it was *my* birthday. Should we not try to remember the Lord above all others on His birthday? Do you think that He is pleased when we think more of ourselves and our friends than we do of Him during the Christmas season? Should we not give more to the cause of Christ this Christmas than we give to our families and friends?

I wonder if Christ will be pleased with some of the other things in our lives and world during this Christmas season. Is He pleased in this day of missionary challenge when we give and do so little to send His message of love and salvation to the ends of the world? Is He pleased that ninety per cent of the gospel is confined to ten per cent of the world? Is He pleased with our attitudes and spirits about the present racial tension? Is it not true that in most things we could do a better job of displaying His love and Spirit?

You may be sure that it will not be popular this Christmas to please the Lord in everything as we celebrate His birthday. The world does not understand our efforts to please and glorify Him. Yet we should seek to know what pleases Him and then courageously do it.

# JOYFUL NEWS FROM BETHLEHEM



By James A. Cross    General Overseer

**O**RDINARILY ONE expects momentous news to originate in the great capitals of the world. News of world-shaking consequences usually originates in these great metropolitan centers. Contrary, however, to all established precedents, good news emanated from the little town of Bethlehem.

This news event was foretold hundreds of years before it actually took place. The prophet Micah declared, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," Micah 5:2. This news prophetically told actually occurred. Luke 2:8-20 gives the account of the happenings that noteworthy night. Matthew declares, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this

wise ...," Matthew 1:18.

Bethlehem, the house of bread, the town too little to be classed among the thousands of Judah, suddenly became the center upon which the eyes of all the world should have been focused. The city was crowded. Every room in town was taken. Many were on their way to their own city to be taxed as a result of the decree of the governor. Travellers were everywhere; the place was crowded; the streets were full. For shelter, a man and his wife made use of a stable. Out of the darkness of night a light with startling suddenness began shining; it was the star of the East. Almost simultaneously with the shining of the star came the earth-shaking announcement that Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was born in Bethlehem of Judea.

This joyful news that resounded on the hills of Bethlehem that

night was the joyful news that God loved sinful men. Here was God's love manifested for us that we may be brought to Him. True, God loved us before His Son came to the world, but here He tells us and shows us how much He loves mankind. Someone has written:

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas.  
Stars and angels gave the sign.*

Here indeed was a newsworthy item. God loves even me.

Still another factor of this joyous news that came from Bethlehem is the fact that God appointed His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the mediator between a lost and ruined human race and God, the heavenly Father. Job many years ago cried

# BETHLEHEM HILLS



out in his despair, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments," Job 23:3, 4. Hundreds of years before this joyous news boomed out this man was desperately searching for this news. Despairing of hope, he cried out, "Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both," Job 9:33. What despair must have filled Job's heart when he felt that there was no one that could understand his case and lay it before Almighty God. The good news which was heralded that day was, "A Saviour is born." Despair has vanished. There is Someone who can "lay His hand upon us both." There is Someone who can order our cause before the Lord. We can find Him. Paul cried out, "For there is one God, and one MEDIATOR between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," 1 Timothy 2:5. Glorious news

indeed—a Saviour is born, a Mediator, a Daysman who can reach down to the lowest gutters of sin and up to the high and holy God and bring about a reconciliation between the two.

Another facet of the joyous news from those Bethlehem hills is that we through simple faith can be born into the family of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name," John 1:12. No wonder we sing with joy, "I'm a child of the King." For hope was brought when the good news rang out that night. We are born into the royal family of God, heirs with Jesus Christ, joint heirs with Him. Christ is now our Elder Brother. From lowly status to kingly honor He came. John the Revelator wrote, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Fa-

ther; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever," Revelation 1:5, 6.

There is a vast difference between the news that rang out on Judean hills that night in the long ago and the news of today. There is nothing quite so dull and uninteresting as last week's news. Somehow this news that sounded out almost two thousand years ago has never lost its interest to the reader. This news is still as fresh, invigorating and life-giving as it was the night it was first sounded. Last year's news is a chronicle of events in the calendar of time. News of yesteryear is history today. The news that sounded out over the Bethlehem hills many years ago is still being carried by radio, television and the Word to the far-flung corners of the world. The news still affects humanity today as it did in the long ago. The news still lives and causes to live all who will hear and heed its message today.



# The Night Before Christmas

By Floyd D. Carey, Jr.

Youth Director of Louisiana

**T**HE NIGHT Before Christmas the earth was still and no extraordinary event was presupposed. But the prophets had foretold and the Scriptures did bear record that one day the Promised One would make His divine entrance into the world to denounce sin and acclaim righteousness. *This could be the night*, thought many eager watchers.

The Night Before Christmas saints held in captivity were cherishing their liberation hour. Only the entrance and sacrificial expiration of their Liberator could accomplish this. With keen anticipation, they waited patiently.

The Night Before Christmas a wicked king very boldly surveyed future strategy for the engulfment of power not knowing that only very shortly his courage would melt and his knees would tremble in fear for his throne and authority.

The Night Before Christmas the shepherds sat pondering before the heavenly visitation what spiritual service they could render and how much longer they would have to wait for the Promised One and the mighty kingdom that would be established after His introduction.

The Night Before Christmas Bethlehem was overcrowded and people were running here and there. The tax officials were busy organizing their forces, the merchants were busy selling to tourists and the travelers were busy securing housing and feeding their animals.

The Night Before Christmas the Eternal Father with watchful care prepared for the union of diety and humanity—the God-man—Jesus Christ. Christ was preparing to leave His celestial throne and assume the likeness of fallen man.

*"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:2, 6).*

The Night Before Christmas the angel of the Lord and the heavenly host prepared for their departure to earth and the official announcement of the birth of the Saviour—Jesus Christ.

The Night Before Christmas Mary and Joseph were seeking shelter, realizing that birth pains might begin any time. Conscious was Mary that she was highly favoured among women and in her womb as described by the angel was the Son of the Highest.

The Night Before Christmas one star broke the heavenly formation and traveled to a small town where it rested over the manger where the Christ Child would lay.

The Night Before Christmas saints were harassed by evil forces, bewildered with persecution, opposed by professors of like convictions, weak in faith, suffering from fatigue of waiting, needing a leader and deliverer.

The Night Before Christmas men were sick in body, thoughts and movements. No knowledge of

healing, hope and permanent happiness had they.

The Night Before Christmas saints did not have the protection of an extra coat of armour. Sanctification and the Holy Ghost had not yet been introduced or known about.

The Night Before Christmas the blood of bullocks, lambs and goats flowed freely, but not true of the fountain of blood that would flow from Emmanuel's veins—washing whiter than snow the heart of man.

The Night Before Christmas great men had charmed the universe with their existence; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Melchizedek, too, had witnessed life. But One was scheduled to come and, though not present, was before these and will remain after other godly men like these have experienced birth and death—the Lamb of God.

The Night Before Christmas separated one day from the following day; and not only one day but one era from another, even one world from another. The Night Before Christmas separated God and man, yet brought them together.

The Night Before Christmas—One night, cool, crisp and mild. One night when man was bound and free, poor and rich, weak and strong. Only one night, but oh! what a glorious event took place.

The Night Before Christmas—Espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David, a virgin who was visited by the angel Gabriel and told of God's plan, would give birth to the Redeemer of mankind.

The Night Before Christmas—Soon the heavenly host would be praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



## Pioneers Do It Again

**M**EMBERS OF THE Pioneers for Christ Club of Lee College will devote their Christmas vacation time to a series of services designed to help churches set up a program of visitation evangelism. Twelve of these students will form a deputational group to visit churches in Louisiana, Texas, and Mexico.

At each church the group will hold a number of services incorporating both the local talent and the leadership of the Pioneers for Christ. These activities will include street services and tract brigades (4:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.), house-to-house witnessing (10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) and teen-age youth rallies (7:00 p.m.). The tentative itinerary will be as follows:

December 21, 7:00 p.m., Monroe, Louisiana

December 22, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Tyler, Texas

December 23, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., Tyler, Texas

December 23, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Dallas, Texas

December 24, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., Dallas, Texas

December 24, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Stephenville, Texas

December 25, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m., "Countdown" Stephenville, Texas

December 25, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Dublin, Texas

December 26, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie, Texas

December 27, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie, Texas

December 28, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., San Antonio, Texas

December 29, 9:00 a.m., San Antonio, Texas

December 29, 7:00 p.m., Laredo, Texas, or Nuevo Laredo, Mexico  
December 30, 9:00 a.m., Laredo, Texas, or Nuevo Laredo, Mexico  
December 30, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Monterrey, Mexico

The directors of the Pioneers for Christ Club which will lead these services are Charles Beach, Instructor of Romance Languages at Lee College, and Howard Hancock of the National Sunday School and Youth Department.

The students participating are: Bill Wooten, Sanford Hopkins, Esdras Betancourt, Aubrey Maye, Mary Brannon, Aline Adcock, Darlene Swanson, Helen Anderson, Darlene Herndon, and Karen Lilly.

The purposes of these invasions are multiple. The primary purpose is to witness to the lost and win them for Christ. Lee College also seeks by work of this nature to incorporate both academic training and practical training for the ministerial and missions students. The Pioneers for Christ Club also seeks to train local congregations so that they may set up their own visitation and personal evangelism program.

*Flash:*

## Lee College Is Fully Accredited

By R. H. Gause

RAY H. HUGHES, President of Lee College, received notification today that the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, has approved the accreditation of the Junior College department of Lee College.

J. H. Walker, Jr., Dean of the Junior College, is currently attending the annual meeting of the Association in Memphis. He and the college faculty have been working up the schedules and recommendations of the Association, and this action by the Accrediting Association marks the climax of several years of preparation. The accred-

itation of the college was made upon the recommendation of a visiting committee of educators which visited the campus in the academic year 1959-'60.

The Junior College department of Lee College (formerly Church of God Bible Training School) was started under the leadership of Reverend Zeno C. Tharp, President, and Reverend Earl M. Tapley, Dean, in 1941. From the beginning of this venture into the educational field, Lee College has worked closely with the officials of the University of Tennessee. These educators have given Lee invaluable service and consultation, and the

university has for a number of years recommended the acceptance of Lee College credits to other institutions.

Attending the annual convention of the Southern Association with Dean Walker are: Stanley Butler, Principal of Lee College High School; R. L. Platt, Registrar of Lee College; Marvin Golden, Business Manager of Lee College.

The High School department of Lee College has been an accredited member of the Southern Association since 1952. The Bible College was accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges in 1959.



## **The Church of God In Switzerland**

*By Herman Lauster*  
*Missionary to Germany*

**I**T WAS IN the days of July, 1959, that I visited different churches in Switzerland. As I came in contact with the different church leaders, especially of the Pentecostal realm, I became heavily burdened for this fair and beautiful country.

I saw an open door in the great town of Schaffhausen. I held the first revival in August, 1959. The Lord was in every message and a real foundation was laid to build the Church of God in that town.

After this revival Brother Reichenbach, a fine young pastor and citizen of Switzerland who was already a member of the Church of God in Germany, took the pastorate. In February, 1960, the Lord laid it on my heart to organize the church. Thirty members came in on that beautiful Sunday morning.

There are other towns and cities in Switzerland that cry, "Come over and help us." Pray for this needy land that the Lord of harvest will help us to fill the need.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

**T**HAT HAITI IS 10,700 miles square, and ranks 85th in size in countries of the world. The population is 3,403,000, and there are 318 people per square mile. Only 12 per cent live in the cities. Although she ranks 67th in world population, Haiti is 14th in density, or people per square mile. The capital is Port-au-Prince with a population of 200,000; it is situated 1,450 miles from Washington, D. C. The chief language of the Haitians is French, and their main religion is Roman Catholicism. The country has a democratic form of government and it entered the United Nations in 1945. The average annual output value per person is \$72 as compared with \$2,570 in the United States. Leading products are coffee, sugar, sisal, cacao and ba-

nanas. Haiti sends 33 per cent of her trade to the U.S. and of the trade received from other countries she receives 62 per cent of it from the U.S. There are 586 people per car, 909 per telephone and 68 per radio. Eighty-five per cent of the people are illiterate, and the average life span is 33 years.

In Haiti the Church of God has 164 churches and 153 ministers and workers.

**DID YOU KNOW** that the Church of God began its missions program there in 1959? You can support a native minister for \$10 a month because the exchange of currency is \$12,500 for one American dollar.

## **Pittsburg, Kansas, Erects Church in the Philippines**

*By Chester Shaner*  
*Pastor*

**A FEW MONTHS** ago we sent money for the erection of a memorial church in the Philippine Islands. When the report of this was printed in the *Evangel*, we requested prayer that God would help us to build an annex on our own building in Pittsburg. He has granted that request and we now have the needed enlargement of our building.

In addition to our enlargement in the homeland, we have now sent \$300 to the Missions Department for still another work in the Philippine Islands. This missions money is in addition to our requirements for the district and state convention offerings.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

**T**HAT THE *Philippine Islands* rank 40th in size in nations of the world and have a square mileage of 115,700, with population rank of 18 in the world (23,122,000 inhabitants). The capital is Manila, but the government plans eventually to move it to Quezon City. The country won independence from the United States in 1946 and entered the United Nations in 1945. Manila is 8,560 miles from Washington, D. C. Chief languages spoken are English and Tagalog. The main religion is Roman Catholicism. The chief products are rice, abaca, coconuts, sugar, lumber and gold. Fifty-four per cent of the export trade goes to the United States and 59 per cent of the imports are received from the U.S. There are 368 people per automobile, 312 per telephone and 45 per radio. Illiteracy rate is 35 per cent and the average life span is estimated at 35 years.

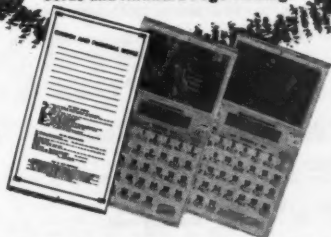
There are 1,849 Church of God members in the Philippines, 61 churches and 77 ministers. Two Bible schools are our greatest asset in the cause of evangelism.

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### Holy Night: Luther Celebrating Christmas

Martin Luther with his family and his friend and co-Reformer, Philip Melancthon, celebrated Christmas Eve at Wittenberg in 1536. Both men were on the faculty of the University of Wittenberg. Luther, who loved art, is the author

of many hymns including "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" and "To Shepherds as They Watched by Night." He also is credited with introducing the custom of lighted candles on the Christmas tree.

—Religious News Service Photo



### Statement by Dr. George L. Ford, Executive Director

While the margin of victory was very narrow in the popular vote, Senator John F. Kennedy has been elected. On January 20 he becomes the President of all Americans. We must give him our loyalty and support for we must have a united country under our chosen leader.

However, this does not absolve us of the duty of responsible criticism. We must continue to be alert to any tendencies toward the breakdown of separation of church and state and ready to express our views to both the President and Congress.

The closeness of the election will undoubtedly be a real safeguard in respect to church-state separation. The Roman Catholic Church having scored its greatest public relations victory of this generation is not likely to risk that advantage by pushing too hard or too openly for special considerations in light of the narrow margin. Mr. Kennedy is likely to be very cautious since

his entire legislative program will be dependent upon maintaining or increasing that margin of popular support. Since the margin is so thin, the members of Congress, most of whom must run for reelection in two years, will hardly dare risk their political life on any divisive issue such as favoritism to one church.

This does not mean there are not dangers. Every American should be watchfully concerned and should express his convictions to the President and to his Senators and Congressman. The National Association of Evangelicals will continue to watch for any efforts to use the government for sectarian advantage and inform its constituency in order that individual expression may be forthcoming at the proper time.

It is important that we follow the admonition of the Apostle Paul that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:1, 2). (E.P.)

### Election Aftermath: "How Much Religion?"

The election was over, the ballots were counted—and now the political analysts (both professional and amateur) went to work.

One question was under particular scrutiny: How much did President-elect Kennedy's religion have to do with his election?

*Time*, in its "Election Extra," had this to say: In Election Year 1960 the great imponderable was the issue of religion. For months to come the pundits and statisticians will still be analyzing the effects of that issue. But in its general outlines the answer was clear. Democrat Kennedy's Catholicism was certainly a factor in his favor in the big cities where Catholics are most heavily concentrated, though the Catholic vote was not so monolithic as the Kennedys had hoped; that is, in Wisconsin's traditionally Republican but heavily Catholic Fox River Valley, the tendency was more toward party than faith. At the same time anti-Catholic vote may well have been decisive against Kennedy in such states as Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Oregon. But in many Protestant areas—both North and South—Kennedy's Catholicism seems not to have worked against him. Kennedy, as *New York Times* James Reston aptly put it, "appealed to the loyalty of the Catholics and the conscience of the Protestants." (E.P.)

### Pentecostal World Conference Planned

Pentecostal believers from around the world will attend a special Pentecostal World Conference in Jerusalem, Israel, May 19-21.

Speakers for the event, the sixth of its kind, will be Rev. Thomas F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri; Rev. H. W. Greenway, Secretary General, Elim Foursquare, Gospel Alliance, London, England; Rev. E. Lessnussa, Pentecostal Church of Indonesia; Rev. James Cross, General Overseer, Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee; Rev. Eino I. Manninen, Helsinki, Finland; Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel; Rev. Lewi Pethrus, Philadelphia Church, Stockholm, Sweden; and Rev. D. L. Williams, Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ, with headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

Conferences will be in Jerusalem's new Convention Center. In addition to attending services, delegates will have the opportunity to visit historic sites of Biblical interest. (E.P.)

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